

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 28, 2007 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii et al., JP 08-194968 in view of Tokuda, et al., JP 2002-092961.

By the accompanying amendment, the mono- to trifunctional (meth)acrylate monomer (E) has been limited to dicyclopentanyl di(meth)acrylate in claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

Ishii et al. disclose a protective coating agent for a high density optical disc, which comprises as essential components a mono-functional monomer and an oligomer comprising two or more (meth)acrylates, and further may comprise as an optional component a photopolymerization initiator. As the Examiner points out, Ishii et al. do not suggest the addition of urethane (meth)acrylate, and the working examples thereof do not include it.

The coating agent shown in the working example of Ishii et al. comprises component (A) (EPA-1), IRGACURE 651, component (E) (MANDA: hydroxypivalic acid neopentyl glycol diacrylate), component (C) (TC-101: tetrahydrofurfuryl acrylate) and a photopolymerization initiator, that are essential components of the present invention. However, Ishii et al. do not suggest the addition of component (D) ((meth)acrylate phosphate compound) which is also an essential component of the present invention, and the working examples of Ishii et al. do not include the component (D). Claim 1 of the present invention is therefore

different from Ishii et al.

Further, in Ishii et al., dicyclopentanyl di(meth)acrylate is recited among the large list of monomers having two or more (meth)acrylate groups in a molecule. However, it does not teach selecting a specific difunctional (meth)acrylate monomer, i.e., dicyclopentanyl di(meth)acrylate, from the large list provided. Indeed, in the working example of Ishii et al., only hydroxypivalic acid neopentyl glycol diacrylate is used.

Accordingly, Ishii et al. disclose numerous options for each of the components that make up the resin. To arrive at the present invention, one would have to carefully select each component from a long list of possible components, and then also incorporate a (meth)acrylate phosphate compound. Specifically, one would have to select epoxy (meth)acrylate from a list of oligomers, 2,2-dimethyl-1,2-diphenylethan-1-one from a list of photopolymerization initiators, dicyclopentanyl di(meth)acrylate as the mono- to trifunctional (meth)acrylate monomer from a list of monomers, and a monofunctional (meth)acrylate compound containing a hydroxyl group. Given that the genus of possible compositions disclosed in Ishii et al. is so large, and the absence of any teaching or motivation to select the particular components of the instant claim 1, the instant UV-curable resin composition is not obvious over Ishii et al. in view of Tokuda et al.

Furthermore, neither Ishii et al. nor Tokuda et al. disclose the unexpected advantageous effects of the present invention, including the avoidance of the generation of voids during the

manufacturing process of the disc having a reflection film comprising silver or silver alloy, and that of imparting durability similar to an optical disc having a reflection film comprising gold in the optical disc having the reflection film comprising silver or silver alloy, and providing an optical disc having a reflection film comprising silver or silver alloy with low electrical resistivity (Examples 1 to 4).

In addition, Ishii et al. do not disclose or suggest bonding the optical discs. It is noted that claim 9 is directed to a bonded optical disk.

Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner indicate his consideration of the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements received by the Patent Office on February 13, 2006 and June 30, 2006 by initialing and returning to the undersigned the Forms PTO-1449.

The amendment is only now being made in order to simplify the issues.

Reconsideration, entry of the amendment, and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


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